

Species of Interest

- ♦ **Karner blue butterfly:** this endangered butterfly is about the size of a quarter.
- ♦ **Wild Lupine:** home to the nation's largest population of Karners. A tall blue/purple flower and the palmate leaves make this wildflower a real eye-pleaser.
- ♦ **Whooping crane:** visible along the wetland portions of the trail this endangered bird is about 5ft tall and has a wingspan of 7-8ft.
- ♦ **Redheaded woodpecker:** Wisconsin's largest population with over 70 nests, calls our vast Oak Savanna habitats home.



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

NECEDAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HIKING



VISITOR CENTER TRAILS



Welcome to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Trail

The Trail:

The Visitor Center Trail is a **1.0 mile trail**, divided into two separate loops. **Muskrat Loop 0.25 mile trail**, a boardwalk that stands above the marsh overlooking the home to many of the refuge's most fascinating inhabitants. **Karner Loop 0.75 mile trail**, meanders through the prairie where you can encounter the endangered Karner blue butterfly along with its host plant wild lupine. Together they wind across gravel, asphalt, and boardwalk surfaces through prairie, wetland, and forested communities.

Butterfly Garden:

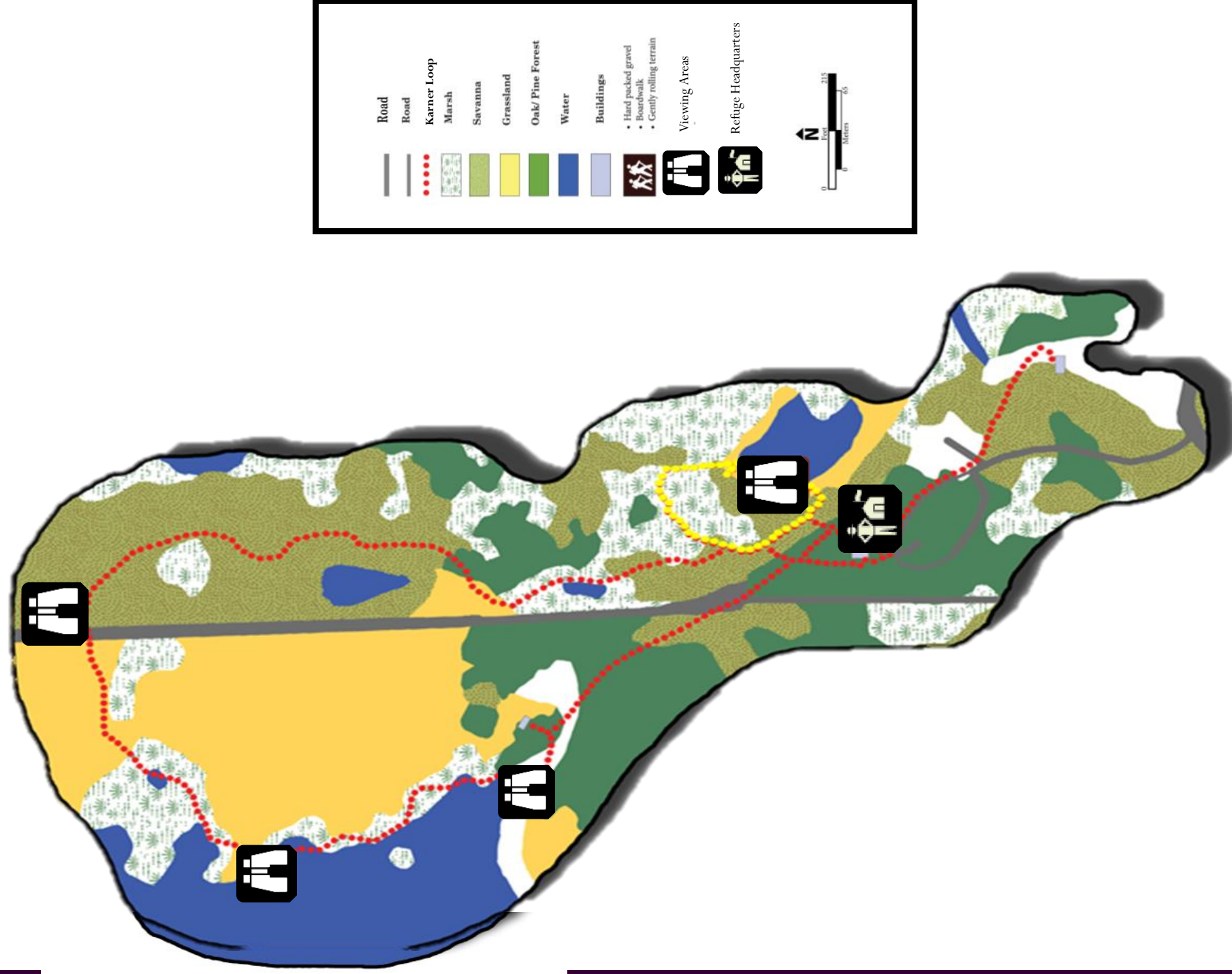
The Karner Loop, near the outdoor classroom, hosts a butterfly garden that was installed during the summer of 2011 and spring of 2012. This butterfly garden includes over 15 different species of butterfly host plants. Beautiful and beneficial, stop to take a break at one of the multiple benches and see how many butterflies you can observe.

Trail Wildlife & Habitats:

Open water wetlands are fantastic places to observe wetland wildlife. Looking out over the pools, do not be surprised to see deer grazing along the wetland's edge, red-winged blackbirds flitting from cattail to cattail, and mallards roosting and feeding.

The Visitor Center Trail is one of the most beautiful hikes. Combining a variety of different habitats, it can host many different species such as: Trumpeter swans, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, otters, deer, painted turtles, five-lined skinks, and occasionally the famous whooping crane. The boardwalk trails provide the perfect scenery to catch your breath and spy on all of the marshland creatures during their daily activities.

Visitor Center Trails



Visitor Center Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm ; Monday—Saturday; Closed Federal Holidays

Refuge Hours: Open 7 days a week from sunrise to sunset

Outdoor Restrooms: There are restrooms open during refuge hours outside the Visitor Center on the west side .